

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



514999

931686

EVALUATION  
OF NEED TO  
CONTACT  
WITNESS

Important: X

Marginal: \_\_\_\_\_

Unimportant: \_\_\_\_\_

Unknown: \_\_\_\_\_

## I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Name of person:

NON-RESPONSIVE

2. a. Where person's name  
obtained (i.e. person or  
document supplying name)b. Where Person's address &  
Phone obtained4. Photos, maps, newsclippings or  
other clippings person should  
shown3. Information (if any) available  
on person's knowledge of Reilly  
facility or water pollution.5. Technical knowledge which may be  
helpful for interview (i.e.  
Reilly process, well construction,  
nature of injury)

## II. INITIAL CONTACT

6. Soc. Sec. No.: | | | | | | | |7. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_8. Name of Interviewer: Coyne & Reed 1/26/81 (w/Dingle & S. Heiken  
of the Popham firm, together with Ed  
Schwartzbauer of the Dorsey firm)9. Date, time of each effort to contact person:

1st \_\_\_\_\_

3rd \_\_\_\_\_

2nd \_\_\_\_\_

4th \_\_\_\_\_

10. Upon contacting person, verify that (s)he is the person we are  
seeking and is not currently employed by Reilly. (If employed  
by Reilly, we cannot talk to him or her.)

## III. DETAILED INFORMATION

NON-RESPONSIVE

12. Former Home Address:

Since: 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Since: 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Reilly Neighbor: Yes X NoReilly Neighbor: Yes No

Home Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Current business address.  
Webster Lumber Co.  
935 East Wayzata Blvd.  
Wayzata, MN  
 Since: 19\_\_\_\_  
 Reilly Neighbor: Yes X No  
 Business phone: 473-1517
14. Former Reilly employee :  
 Since 1951\* to 1972  
 Position\_\_\_\_  
 Employee code:\_\_\_\_  
 Pension: Yes No  
 Injured: Yes No  
 (if so, date and nature of injury):\_\_\_\_  
 \*Worked a few months in 1948 before leaving for the Indianapolis plant.
15. Knowledgeable on
- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <u>X</u> a. Refinery                 | <u>X</u> g. Spills/Fire                         |
| <u>X</u> b. Wood Treating            | <u>X</u> h. Injuries                            |
| <u>X</u> c. Appearance of plant site | <u>X</u> i. Reilly's position on pollution      |
| <u>X</u> d. Ponding area / ditches   | <u>X</u> j. Reilly management (who decided?)    |
| <u>X</u> e. Wells                    | <u>X</u> k. Names of others who might know more |
| <u>X</u> f. Water Supply             |   |

16. Additional Interview notes:Cooling Pond, Water System, Well No. 23

**NON-** said that the pump at the well would pump water into a "receiver" tank. The water would then flow from the tank into the pond. The water would be withdrawn from the pond for use in the refinery. There was no flow directly from the well into the refining process. The only flow into the pond from the refinery was from the cooling pans. Finch did say that a closed system had been designed but not constructed.

The pump at the well was an air lift or forced air pump. The pump was later replaced with an electric pump.

Water pumped from the well was used to fill the cooling pond, to provide water for the boilers, and to provide cooling water for the refinery.

In approximately 1958, a tank was installed in the far end of the refinery. This tank filled with sand. Renner was brought in to devise a method to keep the sand out. Finch said that sometimes they would get "black things" about the size of a BB. He said that this was not a problem for the process.

**NON-** said that the cooling pond filled with sediment. The pond was cleaned out twice during the period 1965 to 1972. A crane with a drag line was used. Disposal of the dredged material was on-site, wherever fill was needed. Finch said that they also used other fill material, including carloads of cinders which would come in on the railroad cars. These cinders would be spread in the south yard.

Finch described the water in the pond as very soft.

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### Tar Cistern

**NON-** The tar cistern is identified as No. 24 in the aerial photo. **NON-** said that the roof was removed from the tar cistern in approximately 1960, the reason being that it otherwise would have fallen down. Finch said that the rainwater would accumulate in the tar cistern. Most of the rainwater would evaporate or the cistern would overtop and flow over the ground. The cistern had a capacity of 300,000 gallons. The cistern had concrete sides and bottoms.

**NON-** said that the cistern was cleaned out twice during his time with Reilly. One of the cleanouts was done at the end of Reilly's operation. The cistern was pumped out and then the residual material was shoveled out. The last time that the cistern was cleaned, a caterpillar was used. The first cleanout was done because there was a buildup of "carbon" which prevented the cistern from heating and which reduced the storage capacity. For that cleanup effort, the company used a clam bucket and crane.

The disposal of the material was off-site, although Finch did not know whether a contractor was used.

**NON-** said that he had not seen the concrete floor of the cistern. He said that the floor was unlikely to leak for the tar would tend to seal it. In response to my question with regard to the condition of the concrete floor after the second cleaning of the cistern, Finch replied that he did not know.

**NON-** said that there were steam coils in the bottom of the tar cistern and that, in addition, portable coils would be used to heat the coal tar.

### Refinery

**NON-** said that there was a transition from approximately 16 "Horner") stills in the refinery to approximately 4 "Leshner" stills. This change was made in 1954 or 1955. Conversion was made because the process changed from externally fired coking stills to use of the Leshner stills. The Leshner stills were faster, more easily controlled and more energy efficient. One of the changes associated with conversion to the Leshner stills was to close off the pans in order to use a scrubber system to control vapors.

In response to my inquiry as to whether there were drains in the floor of the refinery building, Finch said the only drains in the floor would be the washroom drains. (I subsequently learned that there was a trench all around the interior walls of the refinery which would catch spills.)

The aluminum industry wanted pitch for electrodes and Reilly used the Sodeburg process for the reduction of alumina to aluminum. Finch said that Reilly got a lot of the aluminum business because Reilly knew how to refine the pitch.

**NON-** said that Reilly received coal tar from several different sources and received it by barge, by rail and then in later years by truck (beginning in 1963 or 1964).

### Ditches/Tiles/Pipes (South of the Dock)

Tile pipe was used to carry water from the site. The tile pipe ran through the south yard. Before, the discharge had been through a ditch. The tile pipe was in place in 1951 when Finch came to the Reilly site. There were no breaks that he recalls in the pipe.

The tile pipe was cleaned out when it filled with material. Roto Rooter may have come in to clean out the line. The clean-up may have even been done on a routine basis. Whatever material settled in that line would have come from the settling basin.

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**NON-** described an open ditch alongside the dock area. He said that this ditch had been dug "to give the natural flow a little more direction". He seemed to take delight in the fact that the water would flow through the ditch and over Walker Street. He pointed out that there was no filter in this ditch and that the flow from this ditch was uncontrolled.

#### Ditches/Tile Pipes (North of the Dock)

The "wet cut" from the refinery went into the "drain system". Finch described this flow as "should have been just water". He said that tar would hold up to 2% to 3% water. In the process, naphtha would be the first to come off, followed by the water in the tar. Finch said that there was no waste water which would flow from the pans in the refinery.

In response to my question with regard to the possible spilling of creosote in the refinery, **NON-** replied that creosote would "set up" at 70° like grease (suggesting that the creosote would not flow and could be easily cleaned up). He said that the clean-up was accomplished by the use of gravel. The gravel would have some oil on it and "would not be completely clean".

With regard to the line between the refinery and the retort area, **NON-** said that that line had always been there. He said that in the vicinity of what is shown as drain No. 3 on our drawing, that the drain line might have been open.

**NON-** said that when the lines were cleaned that they would dispose of this material as they did with the disposal of cinders that came in on the railroad cars, that for use as fill on the site. *is,*

#### Pipe Trenches

**NON-** said that he had directed that the steam lines be taken out of the trenches in the later years of the Reilly operation. He said that the trenches would flood and that the steam would then heat the flood waters that entered the trenches. He said that at the time the steam lines were moved, the product lines were also moved.

In addition to the fact that storm water would flood the trenches, **NON-** said that lots of steam and condensate would fill the trenches and that the water which would accumulate in the trenches would then drain into the pipe or drainage system.

**NON-** did recall that there was a pipe running from the refinery to the retorts. He said that that pipe was always there.

He said that there may have been an open area near drain No. 3, a manhole or sewer outlet.

#### Tank Room/Treating Room

**NON-** said that the treating room and the boiler room were located across the tracks from the building which housed the treating cylinders. The treating room had a wood block floor. (Finch said that he had laid out the treating facilities at the Webster Plant in Wisconsin.) Finch described the fact that a trench joined the retort building to the tank/treating rooms. In order to operate the cylinders, valves had to be turned in both the treatment room and in the retort building.

#### Oil Separator/Straw Bales

**NON-** did not recall that the baffle system was installed in 1948. However, **NON-** did say that when he returned to the site in 1951, that the baffle system had been installed. He said that the oil separator discharged into a tile line which ran through the south yard.

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Whenever the site would experience heavy rainfall, the settling basin would overflow.

One of the flows into the oil separator was from boiler blowdown. The boiler blowdown water would contain compounds which would fill the basin. (Finch said something about taking some of this residual material and redistilling it as a routine way of disposal, after foiler blowdown has been removed.) He referred to this material as "blowdown mud".

The water on top of the settling basin would flow into the tile system and an electric sump pump would be used to pump heavy residues back to the stills. Sometimes the settling basin was heated with coils.

The waste water from the operation of the "scrubber" (at the refinery) was another flow of waste water into this oil separator.

Hay filters were introduced by Finch in 1961. They were designed by Reilly. Prior to that time, no filtering medium was used.

Hay filters were used at the end of the settling basin and at the road culvert. They were changed whenever there was a need to do so.

Finch said that he had no idea what happened to the filters once they were removed. He said that there were disposable units (dumpsters) on the Reilly site. He also said that Reilly may have burned the waste filter material. He said that one of the stills in the refinery was used for the burning of "refuse". (Still #17 was an experimental still.)

#### Spills, Leaks, Fires, Clean-up

NON- did say that whenever the stills would boil over that there would be "a hell of a problem". (Apparently he was referring to a fire that would result or would be likely to result.)

#### Site Conditions (General)

NON- did say that whenever heavy rains would occur that the site would flood. For example, he said that the oil separator would overtop and flow into the open ditch alongside the dock area.

He said that occasionally operations would stop due to the flooding, although this was not a frequent occurrence.

He said that flooding was controlled by using steam pumps to pump out the flood waters, pumping to an area that would take the water. The trenches would be pumped out into the settling basin.

#### Boilers/Steam Use

NON- said that the inconsistent quality of the water available to the boilers was a problem at the site. The Fremont and many other treatment firms, (possibly including Nalco). For treatment they used a chemical feedpump. They also used a preheater. They would test the water and add the chemicals as needed.

In the last 7 to 10 years, the City furnished waters for the boilers (only for the boilers). Finch said that he was able to talk St. Louis Park into providing waters (in exchange for the City's flooding of the site during rainy periods). He explained that Reilly wanted the water because it was the easiest access to water. (He made no concessions about water quality and the fact that the well water might not have been as suitable as City water). Finch gave 3 reasons for the desirability of City water: (1) piping system from the pond needed repair; (2) pond was not reliable - being filled with sediment; (3) pond water was not of consistent quality.

NON-RESPONSIVE

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Scrubber in the Refinery

The scrubber system was located in the vicinity of No. 49 on the aerial photograph.

The exhaust from the pans would pass through a water spray. NON- distinguished between two kinds of pans. Inside the refinery there were condenser pans where the distillate from the still moved through. Two of the cooling pans or pitch bays were located inside the refinery and two were located outside the refinery in sheds. The outside pitch bays were installed in the middle 60's. Vapors from the condenser pans and mixing and blend tanks were collected and passed through the scrubber system. The source of water for the scrubber was either from the well or from the pond (?) Finch said that there was no waste water from the scrubber operation(?)

Sewer Hookup

As noted earlier in the interview notes, NON- said he got the City to provide water service to the site in exchange for Reilly's living with the flooding condition.

Aerial Photograph

NON- dated the photograph as sometime between 1955 and 1960. He said that pitch bays were installed in 1958 or 1959. He could not identify the area marked as No. 50 on the aerial photograph. He did recognize the fire house which he said had a pump which would supply water through a dry pipe system into the refinery to provide fire protection. He said that No. 51 showed tanks which were filled with road tar.

Layout of Plant Process

We showed him the drawing of the plant process. He noted that the flow diagram for the tar well might very well have been, as shown. With regard to the refinery, he said that the trenches (shown by dotted lines) were equipped with steam coils. All the condensate from the steam pumps would flow into the area of "B". The trenches served as a drain field, as a gathering point for all condensate and storm water. He said there was a trench to every tank.

Names

NON-RESPONSIVE

Comments

NON- was relaxed and personable. He did not volunteer information, but did not appear to dodge questions either. He began the interview before Schwartzbauer appeared. He was poised and did not appear nervous. I said that we would be talking to him again.